

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /081 W

-----061011Z 020180 /13

R 051445Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5873

INFO USUN NEW YORK 570

AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OBPR GT BH UK

SUBJECT: CALL ON AMBASSADOR YOUNG BE DEPUTY PREMIER OF BELIZE

1. SUMMARY: BELIZE DEPUTY PRMIR SAW AMBASSADOR YOUNG DURING ECLA CONFERENCE AND APPEALED FOR US TO PRESSURE GUATEMALA TO SETTLE ITS DISPUTE WITH BELIZE WITHOUT TERRITORIAL CESSION. PREMIER SAID HE HOPED BELIZE WOULD NOT HAVE TO TAKE MATTER TO THE UNGA AGAIN THIS FALL. AMBASSADOR SAID HE WOULD TALK TO UK PERMREP ON HIS RETURN,IBUT HELD OUT NO HOPE FOR EARLY SOLUTION OF DISPUTE. END SUMMARY.

2. BELIZE DEPUTY PREMIER C.L.B. ROGERS ASKED TO CALL ON AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG IN LATTER'S HOTEL ROOM MAY 4, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF PRESENCE OF BOTH IN GUATEMALA FOR ECLA CONFERENCE. ALSO PRESENT WERE DEPUTY ASSISTANCT SECRETARY DESIGNATE RICHARD ARELLANO AND EMBASSY GUATEMALA PLOITICAL COUNSELOR.

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3. ROGERS BREFLY AND EFFECTVELY SUMMARIZED CURRENT STATUS OF GUATEMALA-BELIZE DISPUTE. BELIZE HAS HAD SELF-GOVERNMENT SINCE 1965 UNDER A CONSTITUTION NEVER DESIGNED TO LAST THAT LONG. BELIZE HAD OBTAINED PASSAGE OF RESOLUTIONS FAVORING ITS SELF DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE AT THE LAST TWO UNGAS. BELIZE HAD HOPED RESOLUTIONS WOULD PRODUCE MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS, BUT

THERE HAD NOT BEEN A SINGLE NEGOTIATING SESSION SINCE THE LAST UNGA. (ROGERS IS PRESUMABLY NOT AWARE OF PRIVATE MEETINGS BETWEEN BRITISH MINISTER ROWLANDS AND FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA.) BELIZE'S FRUSTRATION IS THEREFORE GROWING. THEY HOPED THAT LONG DRAWN-OUT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD NOT RUN INTO SEPTEMBER AND THE NEXT UNGA AGAIN, MAKING ANOTHER RESOLUTION NECESSARY. BELIZE DID NOT WANT TO GO THROUGH ANOTHER FIGHT FOR A RESOLUTION; THEY KNEW IT PUTS A LOT OF PEOPLE ON THE SPOT.

4. AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAID IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO SOLVE THIS LONG-STANDING DISPUTE THIS SUMMER, BECAUSE THE NEGOTIATING CALENDAR WILL BE CROWDED. BRITAIN WILL BE ALMOST WHOLLY ABSORBED WITH THE RHODESIAN QUESTION. HE ASKED IF MR. ROGERS HAD A SOLUTION TO THE DISPUTE. ROGERS SAID THE SOLUTION BELIZE FAVORED HAD ALREADY BEEN AGREED UPON IN THE NEGOTIATIONS -- A PACKAGE OF MEASURES FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION, GUATEMALAN USE OF BELIZIAN PORTS, ETC. IT IS A STRANGE DISPUTE BECAUSE THE GUATEMALANS HAVE REJECTED FINANCIAL COMPENSATION; THE DISPUTE AROSE ORIGINALLY BECAUSE OF A DIFFERENCE OVER MONEY BUT NOW THEY DON'T WANT ANY, PERHAPS BECAUSE COFFEE PRICES ARE HIGH. GUATEMALA IS INSISTING ON A CESSION OF TERRITORY. BELIZE WILL CONSIDER ANYTHING IN THE ECONOMIC OR SOCIAL FIELDS, BUT CANNOT CEDE ANY TERRITORY. THE UNGA HAS TWICE REAFFIRMED BELIZE'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

5. ROGERS SAID GUATEMALA'S SUPPORT EVEN IN LATIN AMERICA WAS WEAKENING. PANAMA SPLIT AWAY FROM CENTRAL AMERICA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AT THE LAST UNGA. THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES CONTINUE TO SUPPORT GUATEMALA, ALTHOUGH ROGERS THOUGHT COSTA RICA WAS INCREASINGLY UNCOMFORTABLE IN DOING SO, AND HE SAID HE HAD TALKED TO PRESIDENT SOMOZA IN NICARAGUA, WHO HAD TOLD HIM HE LOOKED FORWARD TO BELIZE'S JOINING CONDECA. SO ROGERS THOUGHT EVEN NICARAGUA'S POSITION MIGHT SOON CHANGE. AMBASSADOR YOUNG NOTED THAT OUR NEW ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ARA KNOWS COSTA RICA AND ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE DISPUTE INTIMATELY, AND HE NOTED THAT MR. ARELLANO HAD JUST JOINED ARA AS DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

6. ARELLANO ASKED ABOUT THE MEXICAN POSITION. ROGERS ACCURATELY STATED IT, AND SAID HE THOUGHT MEXICO'S SUPPORT FOR SELF DETERMINATION AND INSISTENCE ON BEING INVOLVED IN ANY TERRITORIAL SETTLEMENT HAD KEPT GUATEMALA FROM INVADING BELIZE. ARELLANO ASKED IF ROGERS THOUGHT IMPROVEMENT OF US RELATIONS WITH CUBA WOULD AFFECT THE DISPUTE. ROGERS SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD

HAVE NO EFFECT. HE SAID IT WAS A FAVORITE GUATEMALAN
THEME THAT AN INDEPENDENT BELIZE WOULD BECOME LEFTIST
AND PRO-CUBAN, BUT HE TRUSTED WE PUT NO STOCK IN THAT
STORY.

7. ROGERS SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT GUATEMALA WOULD
DROP ITS INSISTENCE ON TERRITORY AND SETTLE THE DISPUTE
IF THE US WERE TO PRESSURE IT TO DO SO. AMBASSADOR
YOUNG SAID THAT HE KNEW THAT IN AFRICA THERE WAS
GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT IF ANY BORDER WERE CHANGED, THERE
WOULD BE GREAT PRESSURE TO CHANGE OTHER BORDERS, AND
THE PROCESS WOULD NEVER STOP. HOWEVER, IT SEEMED TO
HIM THAT IF WE WERE GOING TO BE HELPFUL IN ANY WAY TO
ALL PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE, WE WOULD HAVE TO REMAIN
IMPARTIAL, INCLUDING BY CONTINUING TO ABSTAIN ON ANY
RESOLUTION AT THE UNGA. HE NOTED THAT UK PERMREP IVOR
RICHARD HAD WANTED TO DISCUSS THIS DISPUTE WITH HIM BEFORE
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HE CAME DOWN TO THE ECLA MEETING, BUT THEY HAD NOT BEEN
ABLE TO GET TOGETHER. HE WOULD MAKE IT A POINT TO SEE
HIM WHEN HE GOT BACK TO NEW YORK.
BOSTER

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